

**RESPONSE A (Supplemental)
ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.: HCDI1786**

January 12, 2005

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend p. 8, ll. 15 – 19 as follows:

(Currently amended) “The invention will now be described with respect to the drawing and particularly to Fig. 1, which illustrates an exemplary embodiment of the invention shown generally by the numeral 10, a pipette assembly having apparatus for automated aspiration. The pipette assembly 10 is shown in Figs. 1 and 2 in use with an overlapping diagnostic instrument shown generally by the numeral 50.”

Please amend p. 11, ll. 20 – 22 as follows:

(Currently amended) “thread, can be simultaneously tested in one pipette. A cover 22 covers the hollow interior 16 and is permanently secured to the main housing 14 12 by various means, including sonically welding the cover 22 to the housing 14 12. ”